



ALPINE FLYER

Mt Beauty Gliding Club Inc.

“The friendly club”

January 2015

Website: www.mtbeautyclub.com

Email: gliding@mtbeauty.com

President - Andrew Evans

Vice President - Ian Cohn

Secretary - Peter Demeo

CFI - Mark Bland

TO Ops / Airworthiness / Radio - Terry Knight

Treasurer - Steve Bradbury

Alpine Flyer Editor – Kitty Vigo

MBGC Acting President’s Report

Breaking News – We have purchased a single seat Hornet glider, VH-GMK, from David Tickner of Bendigo. A big thanks is due to Graham Levitt and Mark Bland for their efforts in retrieving the Hornet from Bendigo and then conducting the annual Form 2 inspection to get it flying.



Mark and Graham loading the Hornet into the trailer for the trip to Mt Beauty.

President Andrew Evans has been taking another well deserved holiday visiting his kids and grand kids up north and has delegated his Editor’s responsibilities. Again we welcome Kitty Vigo as the stand-in Editor of Alpine Flyer.

We did a lot of flying over Christmas New Year and flew many AEFs for visitors and local people. Thanks is due to all those who helped out over this period, especially Winch Driver of the year (2014) Detlev Rueff, Chief Desk person, Peter Deane, and the club’s chief urger (oops, sorry - CFI) Mark Bland. Their magnificent efforts brought in quite a few thousand dollars to help pay off our large annual insurance bill for VH-GVA.

It is always great to get feed back from our guests who enjoy their flights. One such guest was Merle Cornell. See her story later in this edition.

Well our Chief GAGIT officer has been at it again. On the 6th of January, Mark Bland got the urge to re-acquire the NSW Come and Get it Trophy from the Bendigo Gliding Club and bring it back to its natural home – Mt Beauty. See Atila’s account of their trip in

GVS. Congratulations to Mark and Atila.

On the OLC front, MBGC has surpassed 59,000 points on the World list and is engaged in a close tussle with our great rivals and friends at the Geelong Gliding Club. Currently we are leading on both the World list and the Australia list. Help MBGC keep ahead - Always log your flights. The club owns three gps loggers. Make sure you take at least one on your flight and make sure it’s switched on before you take-off.

Our competition pilots have been very active. Congratulations to Craig Collings for winning the Grand Prix competition held recently at Lake Keepit. And to Craig, Bernie O’Donnell and Ray Humphrey who recently took part in the soggy Multi-Class National Competition held at Waikerie.

A reminder that our Annual General Meeting will be held at 135 Simmonds Creek Road, Tawonga South on Sunday 1st of February commencing at 0900. Be there!

Rod Harris, former President, former instructor and great contributor to MBGC has resigned. Thanks Rod for your great contribution to the club over many years. **Dave Jacobson** has also resigned. Again, thanks Dave for your big contribution to the Club especially your help with financing our hangar. Finally, leading ex junior pilot **Laura Sullivan** has also resigned. Laura is relocating to pursue her tertiary studies. We wish all our resigners all the best for their future.

A big thankyou to all our contributors. Your contributions make “Alpine Flyer”.

Finally, thanks is due to all members who have sent their Annual Membership renewals in to Secretary, Peter Demeo. If you haven’t done this yet, get a move on and help Peter finish this important task.

Ian Cohn
Acting President

CFI Report

MARK BLAND – CFI



Wow! What a busy month.

A quick count of the flight sheets shows 179 launches since Christmas. That's a lot of effort. Will be keen to see the hour's stats at the AGM next Sunday – Which I'm sure you will all attend?

I was recently asked by one of our executive why I'm always grumpy! Well I don't think I am all the time, but probably some of the time and if so I apologise but please let me say a few words for maybe why. Most of you would know I've become a gliding tragic and I do still love it. I also have a great passion for what this club has become and our sport in general. We've come too far and too much work has gone into getting us where we are in today's gliding fraternity to back off now. It's all been said before but a club is for the members to serve and not vice versa!

Over the past month with the tireless help of Detlev and others we've had the cable and equipment out and ready by 9 am most days, ready to go for not only AEF's but most importantly members. The effort shows in the stats and also the accounts. Not everyone has the same amount of time and passion but it gets very frustrating for those that do, when people come to fly and don't have the time or initiative to help. Things like not switching radios off, leaving batteries in gliders, not tidying the van, not putting gliders away in correct order etc.... I'm sure everyone could think of a small job they could do to improve things. (Steel garbage bin's been full at the launch point for several weeks) Old wire from Cable brakes often left in cars for days. I think you get my point..! Anyway I'll try to be more cheerful and you'll all try to enjoy our great club.

Just one more thing on gliders in hangars: We now have a nice "almost new" Hornet which means we're back to at least six gliders most of the time. The hangar was designed to fit three 2 seater's and 4 single's. We currently have only two twins and 4 singles so they should fit easily with enough room for several vehicles also. GVA and GVS must face west and be in their correct locations with wings up to the north. The singles must alternate with one positioned between the K-21's and the others nosing to the east. All wings preferred, tips up to the north! Obviously with fewer gliders it's more flexible but if we try to be consistent it minimises problems. Sometimes if you're last home you may have to move another glider if possible. Think about the next person trying to get aircraft out the next day. Just because you're tired and want to get home after a big flight, remember it's not over till everything's secure.

Letters to the Editor

On Tue, Jan 13, 2015 at 10:44 PM, Laura Sullivan < wrote:

Thank you Mt Beauty Gliding Club.

During my four adventurous years as a member of the club, I've not only been taught how to fly gliders, operate the winch, and learn to drive earlier than what's legal on the road, but I've had many memorable experiences with other members of the club. Whether they were during a flight or on the ground, I enjoyed them. I am extremely grateful for the instructors of the club and appreciated the time they put into not only training/helping me but all the juniors of the club. Which is one of the main things keeping the sport of gliding and our club alive.

As most of you know I have graduated from school and I am moving up in the world. Unfortunately I am not going to re-join as a member of the club this year as I won't be in town much. But don't worry I'm not giving up, I will continue my gliding and use the skills I have learnt through South Gippsland (Leongatha) gliding Club for the year. Still winch launching but with a rope not a wire, time to put my trust to a test.

It's my turn again to help promote the sport of gliding to more young people like myself. I would like to wish the current juniors and not so much juniors anymore, good luck with their future gliding adventures and experiences.

Thank you so much, especially to the CFI, Mark Bland, the President, Andrew Evans, and Mike Pobjoy, Bernie O'Donnell, Ian Cohn and Steve Bradbury.

See you when I return as a visiting pilot.

Laura Sullivan.



Laura soloed in VH-WVU

Raz Flies with MBGC

Raz, a friend of member Josh New, who has recently moved from Wodonga to Tawonga South, recently visited Mt Beauty and went for a flight with President Andrew.



Raz Mohammed, a new arrival to Australia and friend of club member Josh New, prepares for an AEF flight with Andrew Evans, assisted by Detlev Rueff as ground crew.
Photo by Josh New.

Letter from Josh.

Thank you very much for taking Raz for a flight the other day, he was so thrilled.

I met Raz whilst on my first deployment in Afghanistan 2009/2010, where we worked along side each other. Raz assisted our team with face to face engagement whilst speaking with key influential local nationals. This deployment focused primarily on patrolling the local villages of Uruzgan province and he was an important part of our specialist team of 4 personnel.

I had further opportunities to work with Raz whilst on my second and third deployments, which led to building a great friendship and a bond that no cultural differences could interfere with.

During the deployment there was an incident where Raz put his life on the line for our Australian soldiers and his actions earned him a bronze commendation from Major General Kelly.

Since returning from my last deployment in 2011/12, I held fear for the safety of Raz and his family, but I was also saddened by the thought that we may never meet again.

When I was learning to fly the glider some time ago, I used to send photos to Raz as this amazing valley is so similar to the valley where he used to live in Afghanistan. I always promised him that if he ever made it to Australia I would take him to the gliding club and shout him a flight.

In February 2014, Raz and his family moved to Australia. Raz made the trip to Mount Beauty for New Years eve this year and I was able to fulfill my promise!

Thank you to the gliding club for your ongoing support!

Cheers,

Josh

Merle's Flight

On New Years eve Merle Cornell's family shouted her a surprise birthday flight with MBGC. Merle flew for about an hour and a half visiting Mt Bogong and Mt Feathertop, learning basic effects of controls, and finishing off with a loop. Passing the West Peak of Mt Bogong, she waved to Atila who was camping there contemplating his sins and the meaning of life in elevated solitude.



Merle strapped in and ready to fly.

Here is the email she sent:-

On 14/01/2015 2:54 PM Merle Cornell wrote:

Hello Ian

You have no idea just how much joy the flight on 31 December 2014 gave me! The memory still gives me the greatest buzz! Since losing my ability to engage in the physical activities that I loved, gliding totally removed the daily struggle and gave me absolute freedom. My prosthetist has asked for copies of the family's photos to include in his case study, would you believe.

Thank you so much for one of the happiest days in a long time!

Kind regards

Merle



Atila waving to Merle from the West Peak of Mt Bogong

Come and Get it!!

From Atila Kerestes

I have only been solo for just on 12 months, so I jumped at the chance to co pilot with CFI Mark Bland to go and pick up the "Come and Get it" trophy from the Bendigo Gliding Club.

There was history to this trophy and Mark was keen to keep it alive.

It was an anxious week waiting for the date to come around and I have to admit, my excitement levels were growing day by day.

The day finally came and we went for an early morning 15km bike ride around the Mt Beauty – Tawonga circuit. We looked precariously up at the overdeveloped heavens and hoped that the clouds would "burn off". Straight after our ride, we retied all the knots in the cable. We wanted to make sure we got off on our first launch, since there was work being done on the runway and we were taking a window of opportunity during the workers lunch break to do our launch.

At 12:45pm an Air Experience flight launched and returned 15mins later. "Hmmm", I thought to myself, "This might not be a good soaring day."

At 1:00pm the decision was made to give it a go. We winch launched and only achieved 1300ft AGL.



Mark and Atila posing for the camera.

Mark worked a weak thermal and gained a couple of hundred feet then dashed for the Tawonga Gap. Once again, he worked another weak thermal and just made it over the gap and down we went to the point of no return. We didn't have enough height to get back over, so Mark pressed on. We looked at all the possible out landing strips and made assessments on their suitability. We finally got a decent lift up to 6,000ft then headed for Mt Buffalo. We flew in sink to the spectacular rock face. We picked up some ridge lift and pressed on.



Atila gets a close look at Mt Buffalo.

Mark kept quizzing me on where we were and what land marks could be seen.

I could see Lake Buffalo, Porepunkah air strip and the townships of Milawa and Oxley. Apparently Wangaratta and Benalla were in the distance, but they were terribly hard for me to identify. Mark gave me some pointers on how to make out distant townships. I am always grateful for any of his knowledge.

We tracked west and before long Benalla came clearly into view. We went to Violet Town where another glider joined our thermal for a climb. Of course Mark knew the pilot. They had a quick chat and we both pressed on in opposite directions.

The thermals were getting stronger and higher and the prospect of making it to Raywood seemed more and more real. We were maintaining 6,000-8,000ft. My excitement levels were starting to grow. My sister's property was in the far distance and we were tracking towards it. I knew she would love an aerial photo of her place. She just had been initiated into the world of soaring only a few days back and it blew her mind!



We got the photos and pressed on.

Went over Murchison and passed the southern tip of the Warringal Basin. The kidney shape of Lake Cooper was to our north and Bendigo and Raywood came clearly in view. We were now reaching 10,000ft and had sufficient height to track straight over Raywood and beyond to complete a triangle for some more OLC points.

Paul Dilks from Bendigo Gliding Club was there to greet us and I must comment on the friendly and

warming nature of this kind man. Obviously, Mark and Paul went a long way back and the comradeship showed. They blabbed on and on, telling gliding stories of past and present. I could hardly get a word in, but I have to admit, I found them very interesting and enlightening.

Paul and his lovely wife Helen put us up for the night and went out of their way to make sure that we were well fed, comfortable and our thirst was quenched.

Getting there was only half the job. Now we had to get home to Mt Beauty. The weather outside seemed fine with some early morning Cu s, but the forecast was for thunderstorms in the evening.

We launched at 12:15pm and worked hard to get any real height. We hovered between 3000ft and 6000ft for the majority of the trip. We were blessed with sharing a thermal with an eagle, but there were storm clouds brewing on the horizon and it was fast becoming a race against time.



The sky early on the return flight

We finally got to 8,000ft some 10km before Mt Buffalo and it was looking good to make it home. All we needed was one or two more decent thermals around Buffalo and we would be on final glide. But the thermal gods did not shine as we entered into the brewing storm. Rain drops hit the canopy and our descent was well under way. We were at 3,000ft. Mark worked hard around Mystic Mountain; a popular thermal spot for the hang gliders, but only a weak one knot climb was giving us any hope. Unfortunately it would dull out at 3,500ft. Lightning started to strike in the distance and heavy rain was heading our way.

Mark reluctantly decided to fire up the engine and we gently gained altitude to 4,000ft and final glide home. On the ground, we were exhausted but quite chuffed with our accomplishment.

Anyone else want the trophy?

Well, **Come and Get it!!!**

Women in MBGC

This is the first in a series by Kitty Vigo of profiles of the women who are the backbone of the Mount Beauty Gliding Club: women who support the club their not only through encouraging their partner's passion for gliding but also through their own work for the club such as organizing fund-raising barbecues and hosting glider pilots from other clubs.

Susie Cohn: The Glider Pilot's Dream Wife



Susie Cohn would probably have to rank as the male glider pilot's notion of a dream wife: She is inordinately proud of Ian's skills and achievements in gliding and works hard at supporting the club.

Susie's support for Ian's gliding dates back from her first meeting with him when it became clear that gliding would occupy quite a deal of his spare time, and even though she is not keen on flying in a glider she is happy that he is involved in a sport that he loves.

"I have flown a few times but I don't like circling. I prefer straight and level" Susie says.

Their honeymoon in 1967 consisted of a caravan trip around some of Victoria's gliding fields.

"We didn't have much money then and I was just happy to be with Ian," Susie said.

They are making up for lost time now in terms of more glamorous holidays but even these invariably involve Ian pursuing his gliding interests. Last year when they visited Europe and Chile Susie accompanied Ian to the Wasserkuppe – one of Germany's earliest gliding fields – and visited the Schleicher factory where the MBGC's two ASK21s were built. In Chile – where their daughter Lucy and her family now live – Ian took a memorable glider flight from the Santiago Vitacura airfield that ran parallel to a major freeway.

"I never worry about Ian because he's an excellent pilot," Susie said.

Susie has a degree in design and worked for many years a teacher in graphics and design at Westall Secondary College. She visited Mt Beauty many times when she was young as a keen skier. Her sister Maggie lives in Tawonga with her husband John.

Susie and Ian have three children – Lucy, Nick and Matthew. Of the three of them only Nick (who lives in Holland with his wife and two sons) has evinced any real interest in gliding. He is a very good solo pilot and still helps the MBGC with its on-line presence.

When her children were young Susie was a keen supporter of Ian's work as the commandant of the Air Force Cadet's Gliding school at the now-defunct RAAF base at Laverton just outside Melbourne.

"Ian really loved this work and I was happy that he

was still involved with gliding,” Susie said.

When Ian and Susie built their house in Simmonds Creek Road in 2002 it quickly became the place where club members would meet to exchange stories about their day’s flying and also the site of many very successful and enjoyable barbecues for local and visiting pilots.

“We used to have a regular Easter barbecue when the VMFG visited every year,” Susie said. “One year we had 70 people in the house. I love doing it and it’s not hard work because other wives would help me prepare things.”

Susie can also be regularly be found at the Mt Beauty air field – either bringing Ian some lunch or afternoon tea or chatting to others gathered around the club van. She also regularly helps out as a flight desk controller at busy tourist times.

Ian has been a long-time member of the Geelong Gliding Club and he and Susie generally travel to stay in Melbourne each month so that Ian can fly the GGC tug at Bacchus Marsh to help maintain his status as a tug pilot.

“I don’t always go to Bacchus Marsh with Ian, but sometimes I do and I read my book and then we go out to dinner,” Susie said. “I’m just pleased he’s doing something he loves.”

Coming Events

Sunday 1 FEB -The MBGC Annual General Meeting will be held at 135 Simmonds Creek Road, Tawonga South on Sunday 1st of February commencing at 0900.

VSA MOUNTAIN COACHING WEEK @ MT BEAUTY

8 – 14 MARCH 2015

www.gliding.asn.au/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_download&qid=136&Itemid=181

We have been advised that 27 pilots and 15 gliders will be attending

RAA Scholarship Program

The GYFTS Scholarship Program is sponsored by Recreational Aviation Australia and Airservices Australia, and is awarded annually to encourage young people to learn to fly.

Closing date for GYFTS applications has changed to 28 February 2015.

We are now welcoming applications for the 2015 GYFTS Scholarship Program.

Application forms can be downloaded **here**.

<https://www.raa.asn.au/gyfts/>

If you are interested in applying, please forward your application to: Recreational Aviation Australia, Box 1265, Fyshwick ACT 2609 or kelly.stirton@raa.asn.au by close of business on the 28 February 2015.

Photo Gallery



Mark Bland flies over the Mt Buller Ski Village on 26th January in the Libelle.



GVS flies past the west Peak of Mt Bogong on New Year's Eve. Photo – Atila Kerestes



The view from GVS, flown by Mark Bland and Phil Henderson, in wave on Thursday 29th January.

More Photo Gallery



Phil Henderson enjoying the view from VH-GVS in wave 29th January 2015.
Photo – Mark Bland



Phil Henderson's view at 13,000 ft.



Reuben Lane also enjoying the view from VH-GVS in mountain wave on 29th January 2015.
Photo – Ian Cohn



Control desk scene 18th January – Mike, Susie, James and Graham.
Photo – Ian Cohn

Winch Driver Tally

Winch driver totals for 2014 - Congratulations to Detlev Reuff for being the most prolific winch driver for 2014. And thanks to all winch drivers for your efforts. Without winch drivers we could not operate.

DETLEV RUEFF	316
MARK BLAND	293
MARK LUCEY	186
REUBEN LANE	117
BERNIE O'DONNELL	82
ANDREW EVANS	81
ATILA KERESTES	56
RON BOXHALL	55
GRAHAM LEVITT	52
IAN COHN	45
DAVID ROSS	42
MIKE POBJOY	37
PETER DEMEO	29
LAURA SULLIVAN	28
DUNCAN ROBERTSON	25
OLLIE BARTHELMES	24
TERRY KNIGHT	22
SCOTT ANDERSON	16
MART BOSMAN	13
PHIL O'BRYAN	12
KENTON FORD	11
STEVE BRADBURY	11
RICHARD GROHMANN	9
RICHARD TODD	8
ANDY SMITH	8
BEN TALBOT	7
SCOTT LENNON	7
CRAIG COLLINGS	5
GARRY MASON	5
BRENDAN JUDD	4
BERNIE HOCHWIMMER	4
CARRICK GILL - VALLANCE	3
JAMES ROWE	2
BROOKE ANDERSON	1

Winch launch tallies since 1st January 2015.

DETLEV RUEFF	33
MARK BLAND	30
ATILA KERESTES	15
MARK LUCEY	9
GRAHAM LEVITT	7
DUNCAN ROBERTSON	6
OLLIE BARTHELMES	5
MIKE POBJOY	4
DAVID ROSS	4
REUBEN LANE	3
IAN COHN	2
PETER DEMEO	2
PHIL HENDERSON	2
ANDREW EVANS	1
KENTON FORD	1

If you are not currently qualified to operate the winch, why not consider obtaining training and help share the workload?

There is an annual prize for the most active winch driver awarded at the AGM in January.

Interesting Internet Links

- **Two Seat Nationals at Narromine.**
Soaring Spot
<http://www.narromineglidingclub.com.au/NarromineTwoSeat/FourthTwoSeatNats.html>
www.soaringspot.com/austwoseat2015/results/
Read the news on the Blog site
2015twoseatnationals.blogspot.com.au/
Track the gliders live at
<http://www.livetrack24.com/>
- **Hornet Flight Manual**
www.ddsc.org.au/documents/manuals/Hornet/HornetFlightManual.pdf
- **David Jansen flies 1580 km**
On January 2nd David Jansen climbed into his ASG 29 at Kingaroy and flew record breaking 1580 kilometers roughly south west to Benalla. Read his story -
download.naviter.com/docs/The_Longest_Day_by_David_Jansen.pdf
- NSW Animated RASP
<http://nswrasp.s3-website-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/blipmap.htm>
- Mt Beauty Airport Webcam
<http://avmet.ymbt.org.au/>
- VSA Weather Page:
http://www.gliding.asn.au/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=56&Itemid=99
- RASP: An Overview for Pilots and Weather Enthusiasts:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eHksP0QCPW0>
- RASP Website for Victoria: <http://vicrasp.s3-website-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/>



Don't forget to nominate MBGC, code 1060, when you purchase items from Foodworks.

Radio Call Signs

Reference GFA Mosp 2 19.5 page 54.

On the GFA approved gliding frequencies we can use the aircraft registration or the GFA approved competition marks on the glider as the callsign.

On other aeronautical frequencies we must use the last three letters of the aircraft registration and prefix it with the word glider.

For VH-GMK the radio callsign is Glider Golf Mike Kilo.

For VH-GVA the radio callsign is Glider Golf Victor Alpha.

Instructor & Duty Pilot Roster

Don't forget to contact the Duty Instructor to book your training or check flight requirements prior to the weekend to assist with planning of instructing resources. Don't just turn up on the day expecting to receive instruction without prior notification.

If you are unable to attend on your rostered day, it is up to you to arrange a replacement and let Peter Demeo know who you have swapped with.

Contact Peter at p.demeo@telstra.com or 0428 264 110.

Refer to MBGC Update for the latest Roster.

Duty Instructor contact details

Mark Bland	0417 565 514
Ian Cohn	0408 379 939
Bernie O'Donnell	0432 529 633
Andrew Evans	0418 377 146
Mike Pobjoy	0402 075 131

U can find out more at
Mount Beauty Community Bank®
Branch, 28 Hollonds Street,
Mount Beauty or phone
5754 4484.

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